

<h1>THE WOMANITY FOUNDATION</h1>	
<h2>A Little Science Herstory</h2>	

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Thanks to technology, HIS STORY can now be corrected – just a little.

- 1 Erasing women is not new. Long before it became fashionable – even obligatory, in some circles – for people to cancel us, the scientific establishment was doing so. What is it about women that makes some men feel threatened?

Perhaps, one day, science will provide the answer to that question. In the meantime, for once I am delighted to see deepfake tech being used - to allow female scientists whose discoveries and achievements were attributed to male colleagues to finally have their moment in the limelight.

- 2 The Noble Speech [as opposed to Nobel speeches] campaign by The Womanity Foundation means that women of science who weren't recognised in their lifetime CAN now be acknowledged. But not by having a statue or a plaque – instead, they're finally able to make the appearance and the speech that they've long been denied.
- 3 This exciting project means that Dr Esther Lederberg and Austrian physicist Lise Meitner are finally visible as scientists who didn't get Nobel Prizes while they were alive.

One woman who was excluded from the Nobel Prize was [Lise Meitner](#), a member of the team that discovered nuclear fission. Despite being called the Marie Curie of the German-speaking world by Albert Einstein, Lise Meitner didn't get the award in 1944 along with the rest of her team

Another was [Dr Esther Lederberg](#), a member of the team who, in 1958, pioneered the field of microbial genetics. The team received a Nobel Prize – that is to say, some of the team did – its male members. Dr Esther Lederberg did not receive an award.

By an incredibly clever blending of a real actor, computer-generated imagery, film footage of award ceremonies and the very few photographs that exist of the two women, Esther Lederberg and Lise Meitner now appear on film making acceptance speeches.

Their speeches have been carefully crafted from the women's own words to allow them to express - in this *correction* of history – how delighted they are to be recognised for their achievements.

4 I can't imagine what it would be like to stand on the sidelines.

Watching as my male colleagues received their prizes on stage.

Knowing that the closest I was going to get to an award would be to carry one of theirs so that their hands were free for all the handshaking.

Having said that, it's easy to forget how life used to be. I grew up in a time when, although there were women doctors, the expectation was that a GP would be a man. Nurses, on the other hand, were expected to be female.

Even so... it strikes me as odd that women routinely worked in the field of science, yet they didn't get awards. Perhaps it was a little like the ceiling in the church... women are permitted at the lower levels, but not in the higher ranks.

In the church, it's well understood how the ceiling came to be in place. It was established by dusty rules, written by long-dead men.

In science, it's less clear how the rules came to be there.

5 In any event, however, it's great news that two women scientists have – albeit in digital form – been given an opportunity they had been denied.

In a world that encourages girls and women to become scientists, this project by [The Womanity Foundation](#) is a small but important step towards a correction of History - by including a little previously unknown *Herstory*.

We must make sure that the world never lets the *erasure* of women – in the field of science or any other realm of life - happen again.

CONNECT'S Maxim and Oath

Connect is only interested in finding and sharing the TRUTH.
In search of that TRUTH, we only pose questions – we have no answers.

By: Helen King

Source: CONNECT-M3: [Magazine](#)

3 [LINK:](#) Pen and Sword Blog: Female Innovators Who Changed Our World – Lise Meitner

3 [LINK:](#) The Valentina Project: Esther Lederberg, microbiologist

5 [LINK:](#) The Womanity Foundation

FURTHER READING

[LINK:](#) The Noble Speech

[LINK:](#) Branding News: Late Female Scientists Have a Noble Message to Share

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